SEPTEMBER, 1936 VOL. IV, NO. 1

NATIONAL CONGRESS BULLETIN

National Congress of Parents and Teachers 1201 16th St N W Washington D C

NATIONAL BOARD MEETING

September 16-20

INDORSEMENT of national legislative measures to be submitted to the states for approval before they are incorporated in the national legislative program will be considered by the Board of Managers of the National Congress of Parents and Teachers, at its semi-annual meeting in Chicago, September 16-20, according to Mrs. B. F. Langworthy, President.

Other items which loom large on the agenda for the four-day meeting are as follows:

1. Plans for furthering the three-year program of PTA activities initiated in 1934, emphasizing the importance of the home as a character-building agency. In this connection, there will be presented at the Board Meeting the new book, *Our Homes*, edited by Dr. Ada Hart Arlitt, published by the National Congress as a companion volume to *Our Public Schools*.
2. Continued emphasis on the major projects of the National Congress, namely, Parent Education and the Summer Round-Up of the Children; Traffic Safety Education, a special project for this year, will also be discussed. Plans for future activities in other fields of PTA interest will be considered by the Board.
3. Consideration of the suggestion made at the Milwaukee Convention of the advisability of changing the name of the National Congress of Parents and Teachers to a title which would identify it more closely with its local group, the parent-teacher association.

Preceding the meeting of the National Board, the Executive Committee will be in session on Wednesday,

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Parent-Teacher Radio Forum

The National Congress of Parents and Teachers will cooperate with the Academy of Pediatrics in a series of 26 weekly radio broadcasts on Growth and Development, beginning October 21.

The National Broadcasting Company for the third consecutive year is making its facilities available to the National Congress. Programs will be broadcast each Wednesday, at 2:30 p. m., E.S.T., over the NBC-WJZ Blue Network.

Parent-teacher members are advised by Mrs. B. F. Langworthy, National Congress President, to begin now to plan listening groups for the programs. It is important, she advises, to follow the entire series in order to insure the greatest benefit from the programs, which will trace the steps in the growth and development of children from the prenatal stage through adolescence. Eminent scientists, including pediatricians, will be the speakers.

Congress Calendar

September

The semi-annual meeting of the National Board of Managers will be held in Chicago, September 16-20, at the Drake Hotel.

October

Beginning October 21, the Congress will sponsor, for the third consecutive year, a weekly radio program, on Wednesday afternoons. This year's series, on Growth and Development, will be in cooperation with the Academy of Pediatrics. On October 28, the Congress will take part in the Statue of Liberty Celebration.

November

The week of November 9-15 has been designated as American Education Week, and as is customary, Congress units will join in the nation-wide observation.

January

Early in January 1937, the Directors of the Child Welfare Company (*National Parent-Teacher Magazine*) will meet in Washington.

February

Founders Day, February 17, will be a gala occasion commemorating the Fortieth Anniversary of the founding of the National Congress. The Congress will have a section meeting in connection with the Department of Superintendence convention in New Orleans, February 20 to 25.

May

The 41st Convention of the National Congress will be held in May, at Richmond, Virginia.

June to September

During June, July, and August, the Congress will, as usual, sponsor parent-teacher conferences, classes, and institutes at summer schools; will have a part in the National Education Association convention in July; and in the biennial convention of the International Federation of Home and School, in Tokyo, Japan, in August.

NATIONAL COMMITTEES AT WORK

SEVERAL of our National Chairmen who are skilled at thinking up new and exciting things for state and local chairmen to do are back from vacation, brimming over with suggestions. We are saving some of these for later issues, giving here brief messages from chairmen and information concerning committees which are most active at the beginning of the school year.

Membership—Mary England

Closer coordination of the work of the Membership Committee with the committees on Program, Publicity, Hospitality, and Publications—the PTA Quintuplets—is to be the keynote of membership this year . . . these five with the same aim, studying together, planning together, working together. Bring about this relationship, if you would greatly improve membership work, and no one need worry about numbers. . . . One member of our National Committee said in her annual report, "Units using Congress Publications do not have to be reclaimed."

Motion Pictures—Dr. Edgar Dale

Dr. Dale represented the National Congress at the conference held by the Child Welfare Committee of the League of Nations, in Geneva, last spring. He recently sent the BULLETIN an interesting account of his visits to the film centers on the continent and in England. In his presentation to the Committee, he made the following suggestions:

> That we study the child not only in school, but in relation to modern society; that we consider the cinema as a potent educator; that an international library of children's films be developed; that we look upon children's movies in the same light as we now look upon public schools and public libraries, as a public function and responsibility; that we include the teaching of motion picture discrimination in the highschool curriculum. A final report will be prepared by the League of Nations during the year.

Dr. Dale's new leaflet containing questions and answers on the Effect of Motion Pictures on Children and Youth is being distributed to the states.

Material useful to motion picture chairmen is the following:

Composite List of Non-Theatrical Film Sources, Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, Washington, D. C. 10 cents.

Sources of Educational Films and Equipment, Circular Number 150, United States Office of Education, Washington, D. C. 5 cents.

Dale, Edgar—*Motion Picture Appreciation*, National Congress of Parents and Teachers, Washington, D. C. 5 cents.

Dale, Edgar—*Motion Pictures—Questions and Answers*, National Congress of Parents and Teachers, Washington, D. C. 5 cents.

Educational Screen, 64 East Lake Street, Chicago, Illinois. Published monthly except July and August. $2.00 a year.

One Thousand and One—The Blue Book of Non-Theatrical Films, The Educational Screen, Inc., 64 East Lake Street, Chicago, Illinois. 75 cents. To subscribers to the Educational Screen, 25 cents.

Educational Film Catalog. H. W. Wilson Company, 950 University Avenue, New York City. $4.00 for two years, payable $2.00 each year.

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NEW LIBRARY SERVICE

A new library service has been established in the United States Office of Education for the purpose of fostering the development of public and school library service throughout the United States. Efforts of Miss Julia Wright Merrill, National Congress Chairman of Library Service, and Mrs. Mary T. Bannerman, National Legislation Chairman, who spent considerable time in securing Congressional support for this measure, contributed to securing the appropriation of $25,000 authorized by Congress for the new agency.

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

As a part of our International Relations program, the National Congress will participate in the celebration of the 50th Anniversary of the gift of the Statue of Liberty to the United States of America by the people of France, under auspices of the Department of Interior, National Park Service. Mrs. Langworthy is an advisory member of the Fiftieth Anniversary Committee. Program material, including a story of the Statue of Liberty, is being sent to each state Congress; copies may be obtained free by writing to the Statue of Liberty National Monument, Fort Wood, New York.

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SAFETY

"Organized Safety by Organized Parents and Teachers" is the title of a 16-page pamphlet just published by the National Congress to guide local PTA's in carrying forward the Traffic Safety Education Project.

The booklet, prepared under the direction of the Advisory Committee of the Project, by Marian Telford, National Chairman of Safety and Director of the Project, who is also Consultant on Child Safety and Director of Field Activities for the Education Division of the National Safety Council, is devoted to a presentation of the traffic accident problem and recommendations for a constructive parent-teacher association program to reduce accidents.

Attractively illustrated and printed on green paper, with an arresting story told simply and effectively, the publication should be invaluable to parent-teacher associations. The illustrations alone carry a graphic story which children as well as adults will find interesting and profitable.

The booklet is being distributed free to Congress parent-teacher associations through state branches and from the headquarters of the Traffic Safety Education Project, National Congress of Parents and Teachers, Room 1406, 114 East 32nd Street, New York, New York.

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National President: Mrs B. F. Langworthy
General Secretary: William H. Bristow
Editor: Clarice Wade

OUR HOMES

At the beginning of her term as President of the National Congress in 1934, Mrs. Langworthy launched an energetic program to further recognition of the home as a major factor in character building. Since that time, two National Conventions have been held at which programs were based on the home; the *National Parent-Teacher Magazine* each month in the parent education and parent-teacher programs has emphasized the home; and state branches and local units, through programs and publications, have joined in the work.

At the National Board meeting in Chicago, September 16-20, Mrs. Langworthy will present to the Board the new book entitled *Our Homes*, edited by Dr. Ada Hart Arlitt, Parent Education Chairman, and published by the National Congress as a companion volume to *Our Public Schools*.

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National Board Meeting

(*Continued from page* 1)

September 16. The Executive Committee is composed of:

Mrs. B. F. Langworthy, Winnetka, Ill.; Mrs. J. K. Pettengill, Detroit, Mich.; Mrs. Hamilton Shaffer, Dayton, Ohio; Mrs. Noyes Darling Smith, Austin, Texas; Mrs. A. B. Shuttleworth, Denver, Colo.; Dr. A. F. Harman, Montevallo, Ala.; Mrs. C. H. Thorpe, Little Rock, Ark.; Mrs. M. P. Summers, Sioux City, Iowa; Mrs. Raymond Binford, Guilford College, N. C.; Mrs. Simon S. Lapham, Providence, R. I.; Dr. Wm. McKinley Robinson, Kalamazoo, Mich.; J. W. Faust, New York; Mrs. A. H. Reeve, Philadelphia, Pa.; Mrs. Hugh Bradford, Sacramento, Calif.

Special committees of the Board will also meet Wednesday and a school of instruction for state presidents will be conducted by Mrs. Charles E. Roe, Field Secretary. The State Presidents' Conference will meet Thursday evening, under the chairmanship of Mrs. Beaumont W. Whitaker, Frankfort, Kentucky, and at the same time the national committee chairmen will meet with their vicepresidential department directors, with Mrs. William J. Hayes, Burlingame, California, presiding.

POLITICS AND CITIZENSHIP

BECAUSE it answers a question which is constantly arising during these pre-election days, the following letter from Mrs. Langworthy to the state presidents is reproduced in full:

As the time for November election advances it becomes more and more apparent that we are having difficulty distinguishing between political activity and exercise of good citizenship. As you know, we urge all of our members to vote in the primaries and at the general election, to take a strong interest in governmental methods, in local, state, and national situations, and to make our opinion known whenever it is helpful.

To this there must be one exception made, though it applies only to a public declaration of opinion, and that is in case of a Congress official. It is impossible, as you know, to dissociate the office from the person in the mind of the public. We are, therefore, asking you to be very careful not to allow this confusion to arise by trying to act in the double capacity of an officer in the state or National Congress and in any political connection. This applies especially to political committees, presiding at political meetings, acting as sponsor to a political candidate or being listed as such a sponsor. Our National Bylaws specifically state that "the name of the Congress, its branches or its officers in their official capacities *shall not be used in any connection with . . . any political interest*, or for any other than the regular work of the Congress."

Will you try to see that this principle is carried out, not only in your own position, but as it relates to all officers of your state Congress, district presidents, council presidents, local presidents, or standing committee chairmen? It is obvious that it is too much to expect of political candidates *not* to use the official title in connection with the name of a sponsor, and this is what makes the trouble.

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The Fifth Biennial Conference of the National Council of Parent Education will be held at the Edgewater Beach Hotel, Chicago, November 11-14, 1936.

Youth Helps Recommended

At the parent-teacher section of the National Education Association convention in Portland, discussion on the responsibility of organized parents to youth brought out the following important points:

1. The parent-teacher movement can assist youth in developing youth activities. An example given was the American Hostel Movement as it is being developed by the American Youth Hostels, Inc.

2. The parent-teacher association, through its programs and projects, can promote health and safety in the community and develop on the part of adults, children, and youth attitudes and practices in safety and health which will result in more effective living.

3. The interpretative function of the parent-teacher association is one of the most important of its responsibilities. It is only as parents, teachers, and citizens generally understand and appreciate the importance of education and measures for child welfare that unified effort is possible.

4. One of the most important functions of organized parents and teachers is to help individual parents and teachers understand both their responsibilities and their opportunities toward children and youth.

5. Organized parents and teachers working together are able to correct adverse community conditions and to bring about a more wholesome environment than would be possible if individual parents and teachers worked alone without the assistance of others.

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GRANDMA BAILEY

Mrs. Fannie J. Bailey, of Albany, New York, affectionately known in the Congress as "Grandma Bailey," died on August 5, at the age of 104 years and 6 months. She was present at the first meeting of the National Congress of Mothers in 1897, helped to build the foundation for the work of the New York State Congress, and was active in state work until her death. She is survived by a daughter and son, Corinne and Thomas Bailey.

NEWS FROM STATE BRANCHES

ALABAMA

A joint Committee of the State Congress and the State Education Association annually outlines the state PTA program for the coming year. This year's program, on the theme, "The Community and Its Youth," will follow up the work of the regional conferences last spring. Parent-teacher associations will be called upon to study what the community can do for its youth in education, vocational guidance, recreation and in social and spiritual life and to cooperate with other agencies in doing it.

WASHINGTON

The Student Aid Memorial Fund of the Washington Congress is made up of donations from parent-teacher associations throughout the state each year, and from the Student Aid march at each state convention. This year ten loans have been authorized and at present the fund is helping six students at the University of Washington, one at Bellingham, one at Ellensburg, one in a Seattle business college, and one at Cheney.

NEW YORK

Suggested Programs Prepared at the Cornell University Institute, Ithaca, are featured in the June issue of the *New York Parent-Teacher*. "Every PTA is a parent education group; every member should be a participating member and it is hoped, by building up the program work . . . we can make an effective contribution to better understanding of our present social and economic problems in their relation to child welfare and education," says the introductory note accompanying the programs. Program outlines are given for highschool, junior highschool, centralized school, rural school, and elementary school units.

OREGON

The Portland School Board has adopted *Our Public Schools* as an auxiliary textbook for the highschool sociology classes and has authorized the purchase of 250 copies for this use.

FALL STATE CONVENTIONS-1936

State	*Date*	*City*	*Headquarters*	*National Speaker*
ARK.	Oct. 4-5	Hot Springs	Arlington Hotel	
CONN.	Oct. 1-2	Hartford	Hotel Bond	Mrs. B. F. Langworthy
FLA.	Oct. 7-8	Jacksonville	Windsor Hotel	Mary England
ME.	Oct. 9-10			Mrs. B. F. Langworthy
MD.	Nov. 17-19	Annapolis	State House	Mrs A. H. Reeve
MASS.	Oct. 14-16	Springfield	Hotel Kimball	
MINN.	Oct. 21-23			Mrs A. H. Reeve
MO.	Oct. 6-8	Springfield	Colonial Hotel	Mrs. M. P. Summers
NEBR.	Oct. 7-9	Norfolk	Norfolk Highschool	Mrs. J. K. Pettengill
N. J.	Nov. 4-6	Atlantic City	Ambassador Hotel	Mrs. F. M. Hosmer
N. MEX.	Oct. 22-23	Albuquerque		
N. DAK.	Oct. 8-10	Jamestown	Gladstone Hotel	
OHIO	Oct. 21-23	Toledo		Mrs. Hamilton Shaffer
OKLA.	Oct. 12-13	Tulsa	Mayo Hotel	Mrs. J. K. Pettengill
PA.	Oct. 13-15	Harrisburg	Penn-Harris Hotel	Mrs. F. M. Hosmer
S. DAK.	Oct. 22-24	Sioux Falls	Hotel Cataract	Mrs. J. K. Pettengill
TEX.	Nov. 16-19	Fort Worth		Mrs. J. K. Pettengill
VT.	Sept. 30 & Oct. 1-2	Manchester	Burr & Burton Seminary	Mrs. F. M. Hosmer
VA.	Oct. 22-23	Bristol	Hotel Bristol	Dr. Ada Hart Arlitt
W. VA.	Nov. 17-20	Clarksburg	Stonewall Jackson Hotel	Dr. W. H. Bristow
WYO.	Oct. 15	Laramie		Mrs. J. K. Pettengill

This list includes only National Congress representatives whose traveling expenses are paid by the state branch or the National Congress.

Why a Congress PTA

THE following points are emphasized by Edgar G. Weller in his Parent-Teacher Methods and Procedures class at Springfield, Ohio:

If a member of a Congress unit, you are part of this great cooperative enterprise and can honorably enjoy the advantages of the national group. The following reasons stress the value of *Congress* unit PTA's.

1. "In union is strength." The Congress PTA is not easily broken in morale. National and state membership assure strength and stability, and foster courage and inspiration such as come from large group activities and contacts.
2. The Congress commands nationwide respect and confidence especially among educators. The seven objectives of education and the yearly adoption of resolutions as the basis of program building naturally appeal to school people.
3. The Congress has both national and international contacts and nationwide opportunities for study. Cooperation with government bureaus, participation in national and international conference groups, cooperation with N. E. A. and other similar groups makes it international in scope and influence.
4. The Congress program is an outgrowth of scientific study and research. Its organization, program, activities and publicity have attracted wide study and criticism.
5. The Congress provides economical service through personal and published helps, the work of professionals. (While its studies demand attention of specialists, delegates determine its national and state policies in their annual conventions; it is democratic in its nature.)
6. The Congress has means of educating its leadership as do professional groups. Through correspondence courses, classes, study outlines and its magazines and bulletins, its leadership and its membership are informed. It has facilities for quickly reaching its membership with important suggestions through its unique plan of state, district, council, and local organization.
7. The Congress has a definite but flexible program. Common goals are achieved through personal initiative.
8. The Congress is a chartered organization with almost 40 years' experience to its credit with nothing to sell but lofty ideas and ideals. It is a pioneer in a specialized field of endeavor. This experience is at the command of Congress units.
9. It is imitated, therefore it must be good. It has succeeded; it has justified its existence.
10. It has a passion for the child and his opportunity which is contagious. The right to use publications issued by the National Congress, to consult its officers and committees, to profit by its experience, and to enjoy its influence and prestige is yours, if yours is a Congress unit—that is, if your association is in state and national membership.